AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a water-developable photopolymer plate for letterpress printing comprising an exposure step, a development step and a post-exposure step, wherein the method further comprises a contact step during or after the exposure step and an irradiation step with actinic light during or after said contact step, wherein said contact step brings the photopolymer plate ~~is brought~~ into contact with a liquid comprising a ~~modified~~ silicone compound and/or ~~a modified~~ fluorine compound modified with a reactive functional group ~~during or after the exposure step~~.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the photopolymer comprises:

a binder polymer comprising a polar group-containing polymer and a hydrophobic polymer;

an ethylenically unsaturated compound; and

a photopolymerization initiator.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~1 or~~ 2, wherein the modified silicone compound and/or the modified fluorine compound comprises one or more modifying groups selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a carbinol group, an epoxy group, a (meth)acrylate group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylate group, an amino group, an aromatic hydrocarbon group inclusive of a phenyl group, a hydrocarbon group substituted with an aromatic hydrocarbon inclusive of a methylstyryl

group, an aromatic hydrocarbon group substituted with a hydroxy group inclusive of a hydroxyphenyl group, an alkoxyl group, a (poly)ether group and a urethane group.

4. (Original) The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein an irradiation with actinic light is carried out after the photopolymer plate is brought into contact with the liquid comprising the modified silicone compound and/or the modified fluorine compound.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the photopolymer plate is brought into contact with the liquid comprising the modified silicone compound and/or the modified fluorine compound after the development step and immediately before the post-exposure step.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4 ~~or 5~~, wherein development is carried out by using a developer comprising the modified silicone compound and/or the modified fluorine compound.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the modified silicone compound is a silicone compound comprising one or more modifying groups selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a carbinol group, an epoxy group, a (meth)acrylate group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylate group, an amino group and a (poly)ether group.

8. (Original) The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the post-exposure step is carried out while the photopolymer plate is being brought into contact with the liquid comprising the modified silicone compound and/or the modified fluorine compound.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid comprising the modified silicone compound and/or the modified fluorine compound is a developer.

10. (Withdrawn) A developer, comprising a modified silicone compound and/or a modified fluorine compound, for use in producing a water-developable photopolymer plate for letterpress printing.

11. (Withdrawn) The developer according to claim 10, comprising:

(a) 1 to 50 parts by weight of one or more surfactants;

(b) 0.01 to 20 parts by weight of the modified silicone compound;

(c) 0.2 to 20 parts by weight of an alkyl glycol ether; and

(d) 0.1 to 10 parts by weight of an alkali builder.

12. (Withdrawn) The developer according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the modified silicone compound is a silicone compound comprising one or more modifying groups selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a carbinol group, an epoxy group, a (meth)acrylate group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylate group, an amino group and a (poly)ether group.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Withdrawn) A water-developable photopolymer plate for letterpress printing, comprising silicon on a surface thereof in a relative element concentration of 0.1 at % or more.

15. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The water-developable photopolymer plate for letterpress printing according to claim ~~13 or~~ 14, wherein a rate of a change of a diameter of an indicator of surface wettability between before and after a treatment by using a 20/80 (weight ratio) ethyl acetate/isopropyl alcohol mixed solvent is 25% or less.

16. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The water developable photopolymer plate for letterpress printing according to claim ~~13 or~~ 14, comprising silicon on the surface of the polymer in a relative element concentration of 0.1 at % or more after the treatment by using the 20/80 (weight ratio) ethyl acetate/isopropyl alcohol mixed solvent.

17. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the irradiation step with actinic light is carried out during the post-exposure step.

18. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the contact step and the irradiation step with actinic light are carried out simultaneously.

19. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the contact step is carried out during the development step.